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Contact: Intern Daniel Prohuska danielprohuska@gmail.com 262-661-3119

Freshman Lawmaker Creates Virtual Madison Field Trip

Teacher-Turned-Lawmaker Adapts the Iconic Fourth Grade Madison Field Trip for COVID Era

MADISON, Wis. — Even though all school field trips are cancelled this year, today freshman State Representative Deb Andraca launched a new way for students to visit the state capitol building.

"As an elementary school teacher, one of the things I was looking forward to the most in my new role was greeting students and teachers on field trips to Madison," Andraca said. "With the Capitol closed for group tours, I decided if the kids can't come to the capitol, I could try to bring the capitol to the students."

A free video available at RepAndraca.com brings students on a virtual tour and provides an opportunity to schedule a follow-up Zoom or in-person visit to ask questions and learn more about state government. Governor Tony Evers, himself a former teacher and State Superintendent of Schools, also appears in the video with a personal message for students. The video is freely available for anyone to use at home or in the classroom.

"Learning about how our state government works has never been more important, so I hope other elected officials will use this tour and set up their own meetings with schools in their districts," Andraca said. "As a legislator, my top priority is hearing directly from constituents -- and future constituents. I want students to understand that the decisions we make every day in Madison will have an impact on their future, and they should feel comfortable speaking with their elected officials about issues they care about."

Andraca's Capitol office intern and UW-Madison student Daniel Prohuska created the video. "I still remember my own tour as a fourth-grader and how much fun it was for me," Prohuska said. "I am grateful to have a chance to let students share a little bit of this experience during such a difficult school year."

Deb Andraca represents the 23rd Assembly District which includes the Northern Milwaukee County suburbs of Bayside, Fox Point and Whitefish Bay and the Ozaukee County communities of Grafton, Mequon and Thiensville. For more information visit RepAndraca.com or follow @RepAndraca on Twitter or Facebook.

